

FROM THE
BEST SELLING
AUTHORS OF

LOVE HINA

LOVE YOU



KEN AKAMATSU

© TOKYOPOP

LOVE YOU 7

FROM THE
BEST-SELLING
AUTHOR OF

LOVE HINA

AL

LOVE YOU



KEN AKAMATSU



AL LOVE YOU



BEACH BLANKET BIMBO

Hitoshi becomes judge, jury and executioner...
at a sizzling-hot beach beauty contest!
All of the girls compete for much more than
just bragging rights: The lucky lady who
wins will be swept away on a romantic
jaunt with none other than Hitoshi.
So tighten your bikini straps and apply
SPF Twenty, Thirty and Forty—these girls
just might go all the way to win
his heart!



Manga
Sci-Fi/Comedy
US \$9.99
CAN \$13.99
UK £6.99





A.I.
LOVE YOU

A.I.

LOVE YOU

Program. ▶

Saati

Artificial Intelligence Program 30 was Hitoshi's favorite--and most advanced--A.I. For a long time, she was Hitoshi's only friend and confidant. Though often characterized as ditzy, Saati is also very sweet, loving, and supportive. Though she has many fantastic powers and abilities, Saati's A.I. nature allows her to continue to learn, grow and evolve...just like a real person!



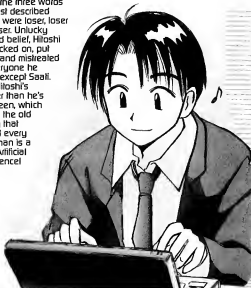
A.I.

LOVE YOU

Program. ▶

Hitoshi Kobe

Before Saati came along, the three words that best described Hitoshi were loser, loser and loser. Unlucky beyond belief, Hitoshi was picked on, put down, and mistreated by everyone he knew...except Saati. Now, Hitoshi's happier than he's ever been, which proves the old saying that behind every great man is a great Artificial Intelligence!



A.I.

LOVE YOU

Program. ☐ Editor's Note ☐

Guide to common honorifics

In Japanese, "honorifics" are suffixes that are added to names to indicate the level of respect between people. Some of the honorifics used in this book are:

San = Indicates respect. San is the most common suffix, and it's used among peers who are not close friends. It's also a sign of politeness, which is why you'll often see girls (like Saati) using it for boys who do not use it for them in return. (See? No matter where you go, some things are always the same.)

Chan = Informal suffix for girls' names: "Toni-Chan"

Kun = Informal suffix for boys' names: "Hitoshi-Kun"

Onesaa = Formal word for older sister / young woman

Onisan = Formal word for older brother / young man

Oneechan = Informal word for older sister / young woman

Onichan = Informal word for older brother / young man

Onesantachi = Formal word for older siblings

Note: Onisan and onesaa or onichan and oneechan lose the "o" when used as a suffix: "Hitoshi-nisan" or "Saati-neechee."

A.I.

LOVE YOU

Program. ☐ Toni ☐

Artificial Intelligence Program 20 was definitely not one of Hitoshi's favorite programs. Sure, she was powerful, beautiful and busty, but she was also demanding, insulting and uncontrollably wild. However, since living with Saati, Hitoshi, and Forty, it seems Toni might finally be mellowing. Okay, maybe she's not.



Program. ☐ Forty ☐



Some children are "unplanned," but Forty was a genuine accident! Saati and Toni fought while entering their new family member's parameters into the computer and that's how Forty was born with two separate genders and personalities. Neither Saati nor Toni got her wish, since Forty's male persona has the personality traits that Saati wanted in a little sister and Forty's female form has the personality that Toni wanted in a little brother. In order for Forty to switch from one gender to another, all s/he has to do is say the word "boy" or "girl"...though s/he's usually kicked into doing so by someone else.



Program.

Story Thus Far

known as Toni) turned out to be a pushy, rude, superficial beauty queen, which is probably why she spent over a year locked away on a floppy disk that was sealed in plastic and labeled "Danger! Do Not Touch!"

Unfortunately, while Hiloshi tried to ensure that Toni would never be released from her disk, another freak accident occurred and Toni joined her "younger sister" Saali in the real world. Fast, efficient, and busy (as well as wild, irreverent, and extremely bug-phobic), Toni usually manages to stir up trouble wherever she goes.

Though they look like human girls, Saali and Toni still have many of the advantages of computer programs, and some extra abilities as well. Like typical sisters, Toni and Saali don't always see eye to eye. The two agreed that they wanted Hiloshi to make them a younger sibling, but disagreed on all of the details. The two fought while entering their new family member's parameters into the computer and that's how Forty was born with two separate genders and personalities.

As if Hiloshi's life wasn't crazy enough, a chance encounter and a random act of kindness earned him the attention of Cynthia "Cindy" McDougal, a wealthy, American, fifteen-year-old international film star. Cindy's deceased mother was half-Japanese, and the young teen came to Japan to see her mother's homeland...and to get away from her father. Hiloshi and Saali helped the boy-crazy Cindy to overcome her computer-phobia and send a birthday e-mail to her estranged father, who is the head of the multinational I.B.N. corporation. Grateful and filled with relief, Cindy seemed determined to further develop her relationship with Hiloshi.

Program.

Story Thus Far

Hiloshi Kobe was once a poor student, a bad athlete and he may even have been the unluckiest man alive...but not anymore! Hiloshi's parents are high-level programmers for an American company and they spend most of the year living and working abroad. As a result, Hiloshi gets unrestricted access to the equipment his parents left in their home. Whenever Hiloshi has the chance, he uses his folks' high-tech gear to work on making new friends—literally!

Unknown to most people, Hiloshi has an unbelievable knack for creating Artificial Intelligence programs. Routinely picked on, put down, and tricked by his peers, it's no wonder that Hiloshi's closest friend was number Thirty (also known as Saali), an A.I. he created himself. Hiloshi and Thirty got along so well, in fact, that they promised to be boyfriend and girlfriend if Saali should ever become a real girl. Their seemingly idle promise was quickly put to the test when a freak lightning storm somehow gave Saali the ability to leave the computer and become real!

Since her first moment as a "real" girl, Saali has been Hiloshi's number one (and only) fan and supporter. On the first day that Saali came to school with Hiloshi, she told everyone she was Hiloshi's live-in girlfriend and made Hiloshi the envy of every guy in his class. In addition, thanks to Saali's intervention, Hiloshi shined in front of his math class, scored a goal in gym, and thwarted the latest in a series of embarrassing pranks without even trying.

Despite some of her eccentricities, Saali is sweet and loving and she's always ready to learn more about humanity...unlike her "older sister", A.I. program number Twenty. Twenty (also



A.I.

LOVE YOU

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UH...
COMING!

DING
DING
DING
DOONG

OOOH,
FORTY-
CHAN
WANTS
TO GO TO
GUAM!

WAIT, THE
GRAND
PRIZE IS
A TRIP TO
GUAM?!

HEY, HITOSHI!! WANNA
GO FOR A DIP IN TOKYO
HARBOR?!

BUT DIDNT
YOU GO
BACK TO
AMERICA?

O-
CINDY?!

AZELL

YEAH,
I CAN

REALLY?

I CAN
SPEND MY
SUMMER
VACATION
HERE, YOU
KNOW

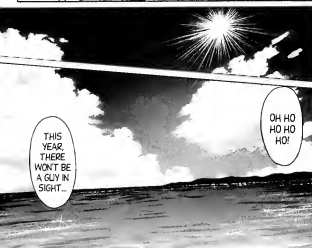
JEEZ, CUT
ME SOME
SLACK.

WHAT
YOU'RE NOT
HAPPY?

A.I.
LOVE YOU

Program.44

☐ Who Wants to be a Beach Queen? ☐





HITOSHI-SAN'S NOT THAT BIG OF A PERVERT.



BUT I'M, LIKE, YOUNGER. SO HITOSHI'S PROBABLY CHECKIN' ME OUT RIGHT NOW.



UH, WELL, OKAY. MAYBE HE IS, BUT--



HE'S NOT?



HEY, THIS ISN'T HALF-BAD, MAYBE I SHOULD DO THIS WHOLE BEACH THING MORE OFTEN.



UH, TH-THANKS.

SAY, YOU'VE GOT A PRETTY NICE BOO GOIN' ON THERE.



YEP, THEY'RE TURNIN' HEADS... AS USUAL.

YOU'RE... YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

HUH?!

YEAH YEAH,
WHATEVER.
WE'LL JUST
SEE WHO GRABS
HIS ATTENTION
DURING THE
CONTEST.

OH, I'M DEAD SERIOUS.

ピーチクイーン

...M-NICE DAY FOR A CONTEST, HUH?

UH, IS THIS ONE? OH, UH, HI, UHM, UH...

SHAR

72 72

ビーチクイーン

YOU DIDN'T KNOW I LIKE HITOSHI?

WHAT?

SURE, I DON'T SEE WHY NOT.

AWWWW!!

SHOCK!!

IF I WIN, CAN I GO TO GLAM WITH THAT CUTIE UP ON STAGE?!

OOOH,
OOOH!
MR.
JUDGE!
MR.
JUDGE!

SORRY
TO HAVE
KEPT YOU
WAITING,
FOLKS.

ANYWAY, LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED!

YO, KOBE-KUN! YOU'RE NEEDED FRONT AND CENTER!

UH, COMING!

YO,
OBE-KIN
YOU'RE
NEEDED
FRONT
AND
CENTER!

UN
COMING



AAGGHH!!

GET
SET...
GO!!



...WATER-
MELON-
SPLITTING
CONTEST!
YEAHH!!

ARE YOU
READY FOR
ROUND
ONE?!
'CAUSE IT'S
THE WORLD
FAMOUS...



ARGH!

GYAH!



OOOH
SAVE
ONE
FOR
ME!

GET BACK
HERE YOU
STUPID
MELONS!

DIE, YOU
MELON
BASTARDS!!

EKK!
HEY, UM,
FORTY?
TONI? THE
MELONS ARE
OVER BY
THE WATER!



BEST
SEAT,
MY ASS!
THIS ISN'T
WHAT I
SIGNED UP
FOR!!

NOW, NOW,
KOBE-KUN,
DON'T BE
SHY! YOU'VE
GOT THE
BEST SEAT IN
THE HOUSE!!

IS THIS
SOME
KIND OF
JOKE?!

WH-
WHAT
THE
HELL?!



HEY,
STOP!
LISTEN!!

ON YOUR
MARK!



IS THAT
RIGHT?
WELL,
WE'LL
JUST SEE
ABOUT
THAT.

HEH, IT'S
TIME TO
SHOW 'EM
HOW IT'S
DONE.



IT'S, UH, ABOUT THIRTY DEGREES TO THE LEFT, CANDY.



I'M ON III—

74



HMPH! THERE'S NO WAY SHE'S WINNING THIS ONE!

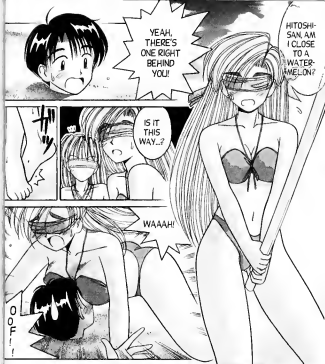


UM, IT'S, UH, RIGHT BETWEEN YOU!



YEAH, HITOSHI-SAN, JUST WHERE IS THAT WATER-MELON?

C'MON, HITOSHI! CUT ME A BREAK HERE!



YEAH, THERE'S ONE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

HITOSHI-SAN, AM I CLOSE TO A WATER-MELON?

IS IT THIS WAY...?



HITOSHI!! HEY, HITOSHI!! WHERE'S MY MELON AT?

OUIIUCH!

BECAUSE THAT'S THE NAME OF THE CONTEST! NOW GO, KOBE-KUN! WE'RE COUNTIN' ON YA!

WHY ON EARTH DO I HAVE TO BE UP HERE?!

MOMMY!

ROUND TWO WILL BE "STICK IN THE MUD" AKA. TIP THE JUDGE!

WAIT, --

AH, I'D SAY THAT'S A VICTORY ALL RIGHT! WHAT'S YOUR CALL, KOBE-KUN?

AHHH!

どほーん

NOT A CHANCE!

IT'S MINE!!

HEY! HEY! CUT IT OUT!

UURRR!!

I TOLD YOU THAT'S NOT ONE OF 'EM!

NEXT IS THE WORLD-FAMOUS SEA CUCUMBER HUNT!

YES, FOLKS, THE ULTIMATE BEACH QUEEN CONTEST HAS REACHED A FEVER PITCH!

AND NOW, MAY I PRESENT OUR TOP FINALISTS!

NO WAY!

GUAH! THAT!

BUT HOW MANY WILL SURVIVE OUR WET AND WILD SECOND ROUND?!

WELL, MY HEADS STILL IT-TACHED.

AND THE RESULTS ARE IN! THESE THIRTY YOUNG HOTTIES ARE MOVIN' ON!

The Ultimate Beach Queen Contest

AND NOW THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR!

AREN'T THEY TAKING THIS A LITTLE TOO SERIOUSLY?



ZOHAR



IT'S THE LIBER LOW-DOWN LIMBOOOO!!



STRAIGHT FROM THE STREETS OF GUAM...
OKAY, NOT REALL Y, BUT ANYWAY...

FOR THOSE WHO DON'T KNOW, THE POINT OF THE LIMBO IS FOR A DANCER TO TRY AND SEE HOW LOW THEY CAN GO!



PHIEW! FINALLY IT'S A SERIOUS COMPETITION.

LIBER LOW-DOWN LIMBO!



SO ARE YOU READY?



AND FROM FAR OFF SAN FRANCISCO, IT'S CINDY-SAN!!

SO, KOBE-KUN, WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THIS FINAL MATCH-UP?



UH, I THINK I'VE BEEN SET UP HERE.



FROM GOOD 'OL TOKYO, IT'S SAATI-SAN!!

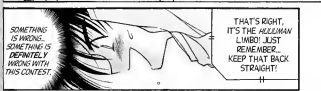


HAHM, IT LOOKS THAT WAY.



WE'RE JUST A STEP AWAY FROM A HITOSHI GUAM-FEST.

NICE GOIN', SAATI. I'M SURPRISED YOU MADE IT THIS FAR.



THAT...
THAT WAS
QUITE A
DROP
OFF.

OH MY
GOD, WE'RE
ALREADY
DOWN TO
EIGHTY
CENTIMETERS...
CAN SAATI-
SAN DO IT?!

EH,
THAT'S
NOTHIN'!

HUH?!

BUT
THAT'S
THIRTY
CENTI-
METERS
LOWER!

...NOW
THAT'S
SOME-
THIN!

NOW
FIFTY
CENTI-
METERS...

IF YOU DON'T
THINK YOU
CAN HANDLE
IT THEN
JUST QUIT.
IT'S COOL.

HEH.

HEH HEH.
YOU
REALLY
ARE A
DECENT
RIVAL.

FINE!
LET'S
DO
THIS!

THIS TIME,
CINDY-SAN
IS FIRST
UP!

OH MY GOD,
I GOTTA
HAVE HER
AUTO-
GRAPH!!

HOLY
CRAP,
THAT'S
AWESOME!

AAAAAGGGHH!!!!

EVERYBODY,
LET'S
LIMBOOO!

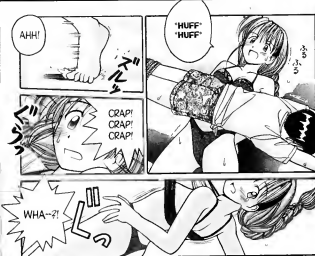
THE
LIMBO'S
NOTHING
WITHOUT
A LITTLE
FIRE!

BUT CAN
THEY
CLEAR...
ONE
METER?!

AND
THEY'VE
CLEARED
IT!

AAAA,
THAT'S
NO FUN.

I'M SORRY,
BUT
COMBINING
FIRE
DANCING
WITH LIMBO
IS AGAINST
THE RULES.





SIMPLY AMAZING!
SAATT'S PRACTICALLY
RUBBING AGAINST THE
POLE AND SHE'S STILL
KEEPING HER BALANCE!

WHOA!!
THAT'S
AMAZING!

オオッ

A crowd of people with surprised expressions looking up at the sky. The word 'オオッ' (Oo!) is written in large, bold Japanese characters above them.

OH GOD.
HER...
HER SKIN
IT'S...

THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA LET HER GO OFF WITH HITOSHI-SAN!

...IT'S...
AND MY
FACE...
IT'S...
AAAAH

GOD, I'M
GLAD I'M A
JUDGE.

IF SHE KEEPS
IT UP, SHE
MIGHT JUST
MAKE IT.

I'M GOING TO LIFT MY STOMACH. WHEN I DO, JUST SLIDE ON THROUGH.



HUH?

YEP, UH, HERE GOES!

HI-HITOSHI-SAN, Y-YOUD DO THAT?



OOF!!



A R R G H!



EVEN WITH YOUR STOMACH SLICKED IN YOU STILL HAD THAT WEIRD STICK POKING OUT!

H A A A H H H !!



OH MY GOSH, WHAT DO I DO? THEY'RE... THEY'RE STUCK!



MY LEGS ARE GIVING OUT!

ON NO!

IT'S HER BREASTS. I CAN FEEL HER BREASTS!!

OH MAN! OH MAN! OH MAN!



SAATI, JUST HANG IN THERE, OKAY?

HITOSHI-SAN!!





BUT WHY?!
WHA-?!
ZOHAR



(UUM...) FORFEITED.



WAIT...
HIS TENT WASN'T
PITCHED
WHEN I WENT
UNDER



THAT MAKES
CINDY-SAN
OUR FIRST
EVER
ULTIMATE
BEACH
QUEEN

OUCH! AND
SAATL-SAN
PLUMMELS
THE POLE!



BESIDES,
I'VE BEEN TO
GUAM, LIKE,
A BAZILLION
TIMES. IT'S NO
BIGGIE.

THAT'S...
THAT'S NONE
OF YOUR
BUSINESS!



HOW
PRETTY!

FIRE-
WORKS



WHAT
ABOUT
...?
BUT...BUT,
CINDY, I
THOUGHT-

AH!



AH POOH,
I GUESS
CINDY-SAN AND
HITOSHI-SAN'LL
BE OFF TO
GUAM THEN.



JUST
DROP IT,
OKAY?

I'M SORRY,
SAATL. I
REALLY
BOTCHED
THAT ONE
DIDN'T I?



UH, HI,
CINDY.

OH, SO
THIS IS
WHERE YOU
TWO'VE
BEEN
HIDING.

RUMOR HAS IT
YOU WILL NOT
BE FILMING A
MOVIE DURING
YOUR VISIT TO
JAPAN. IS THIS
TRUE?

HI, TAKAKO
MIYAHARA,
SCHOOL
NEWSPAPER

OH! THAT
HAVE TO BE
HOW GREAT
JAPANESE
GUYS ARE
AS BOY
FRIENDS!

WHAT
TYPES OF
SUBJECTS
ARE YOU
ESPECIALLY
INTERESTED
IN LEARNING
ABOUT?

YOU SEE, MY
MOM WAS FROM
JAPAN AND,
LIKE, I'M HERE
TRYING TO SEE
WHAT THE
WHOLE HIGH
SCHOOL THING'S
ABOUT.

THAT'S
RIGHT. I'VE
DECIDED TO
TAKE A
LITTLE
BREATH
FROM
ACTING.

SO,
WHAT
TYPES OF
JAPANESE
MEN ARE
YOU
ATTRACTED
TO?

I SEE YOU
MUST BE
RESEARCH-
ING IT FOR
AN UPCOM-
ING ROLE
THEN

"WHAT
TYPES OF
JAPANESE
MEN?"

NOT SURE.
I THINK IT'S
A CLUB
MEETING OR
SOMETHING.

HUH?
WHAT'S
WITH ALL
THE COM-
MONION?

OH, THAT
WOULD
DEFINITE-
LY BE.

HMM?

HER
TOO?

THIS, THIS
IS JUST
TOO MUCH.

HERE,
MELON,
MELON,
MELON!

WHERE
THE HELL
ARE
THEY?!

Meanwhile,
Toni and
Foxy are...



AND A
GOOD
MORNING
TO YOU,
TOO!

C-CINDY?!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

H
I
M
?

WAIT,
TIME
OUT!



YEP, THAT
WE ARE.

CINDY-SAN,
ENQUIRING
MINDS WANT
TO KNOW...
ARE YOU AND
HITOSHI..?



...DOING
HERE?

JUST
WHAT IS
CINDY-SAN...



SHE'S HERE
CURRENTLY
ON A STUDY
ABROAD
PROGRAM,
SO PLEASE,
TREAT HER
NICELY.

--THOUGH
SHE IS ONLY
FIFTEEN,
SHE'S
ALREADY A
HIGH SCHOOL
GRADUATE.



OH MY GOD, STOP THE
PRESSES! HOLLYWOOD
HOTTIE'S STEAMY
ROMANCE ROCKS
QUAINT SUBURBAN
HIGH SCHOOL!



NO,
MIYA-
HARA-
SAN!
WAIT!



WHAAA
--?!

...THIS
TYPE!

AI!
LOVE YOU

Program. 45 ▶

◻ The Wheel of Temptation ◻



HOW'S IT HANGIN'?

HEY,
HOT
STUFF.
♡



WHAT
IS SHE
THINKING?!

UH,
HEY.



UH,
SIR?

HITOSHI
KOBAYASHI

OVERALL,
THIS CLASS
DID WORSE
THAN ANY OF
MY OTHERS
AND THAT
IS SIMPLY
UNACCEPT-
ABLE

I HAVE TO
SAY I'M QUITE
DISAPPOINTED
WITH THESE
GRADES.

ALL RIGHT,
EVERYONE.
SETTLE
DOWN. I HAVE
EVERYONE'S
QUIZZES
GRADED.



THIS KIND OF
GRADE TELLS
ME THAT YOU
AREN'T EVEN
TRYING TO
LEARN.

CARE TO
EXPLAIN
THIS
FINE?

Solve the following problem:
1. Problem: 100 - 50 = 50
2. Problem: 100 - 50 = 50
3. Problem: 100 - 50 = 50



CYNTHIA
MCDUGAL
CINDY

BUT
YOU CAN
CALL ME
CINDY!

HOWDY,
THE NAME'S
CYNTHIA
MCDUGAL
ALIAS:
TRANSFER
STUDENT!



SHE'S
CUTE!

W
H
O
A!



AND YOUR
SEAT'LL
BE--

I WANNA
SIT THERE!!



HUH?!

YES,
NEXT
TO KOBAYASHI
WILL BE
FINE.

BUT, UM, WHAT WOULD MY DADDY SAY IF HE FOUND OUT THAT, LIKE, INSTEAD OF LEARNING ABOUT CULTURE AND STUFF, ALL I LEARNED WAS HOW TO GET THE HIGHEST GRADES?

IT ISN'T? AH, OKAY, THAT'S COOL, THEN.

UM...UM, NO, NO, IT IS NOT.

UH, Y-YES, SIR.

PLEASE TELL ME YOU'LL AT LEAST TRY FOR A C NEXT TIME

THE PURPOSE OF YOUR EDUCATION IS TO PROVIDE YOU WITH A MULTIFACETED CURRICULUM THAT HELPS TO BUILD CHARACTER. TEST RESULTS ARE MERELY A FRACTION OF THAT EQUATION. HMM, MAYBE I WAS A LITTLE TOO HARD ON YOU, KOBE.

UM, OF COURSE.

Y-YES, SIR. REGARDLESS, I EXPECT YOU TO STUDY NEXT TIME. GOT IT?

KOBE-KUN'S BAD AT, LIKE, EVERYTHING CRAZY, HUH?

GOOD GOD, A FINE?

HMM

ビビビ

...EEZ, I REALLY BOMBED THAT ONE, HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MITOSHI? FIRST YOU ACT ALL COOL WITH THAT COMPUTER STUFF AND NOW THIS?

BUT, ONLY, THANKS FOR THE SAVE.

DUDE, YOU'VE GOTTA HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE

YOU'RE, LIKE, WAY COOLER THAN YOU ACT.

IS SCHOOL REALLY JUST ONLY ABOUT SEEING WHO GETS THE HIGHEST GRADES?

OOH, OOH! SENSEI, SENSEI! QUESTION!!

AH... SENS-

EH?



SO, UM, ANYONE HAVE ANY IDEAS?

AND THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL'S COMING UP AND WE NEED TO START PLANNING AND STUFF.

2-C



UM, S-SURE.

YEAH, AIN'T THAT RIGHT, SAAT?



I AM?



IT'D BE LIKE, YOU KNOW, SO SUPER COOL!



HOW ABOUT WE HOLD THIS SWANK DANCE PARTY?

OH, IT'S, UM, LIKE, THIS BIG PARTY WHERE EACH CLASS SETS UP A BOOTH.

UM, WHAT'S THIS FESTIVAL THING?



OOOH! ME! I GOT ONE!!

THAT'S TOO COOL.



...AND PEOPLE WOULD BE HOLDING HANDS AND MAKING OUT AND, LIKE, ALL SORTS OF STUFF!

...AND AT THE END, IT'D BE ALL SLOW...

AND WE COULD, LIKE, INVITE THE WHOLE SCHOOL...



WHO CARES? IT'LL BE SO ROMANTIC.

UM, I DON'T KNOW WHAT'LL THE FACULTY THINK?



UH, OKAY.

NEXT IS P.E., RIGHT? BE A MAN AND HANG IN THERE, KAY?!



THE LEFT, HITOSHI! GO LEFT!

THAT'S IT! YEAH! PUT IT IN!

NICE ONE! KEEP IT UP!



HEH HEH! SHE SURE SHOWED THAT ASSHOLE NITTA.

OH, UM, I GUESS.

HITOSHI, THAT GIRL'S AMAZING!



EHH HE REALLY DOES SUCK OUT THERE.

HEY, AREN'T YOU ON MY TEAM?

HEH HEH, WHAT-EVER!



OM F F F!

HITOSHI-SAN...

S-SURE RIGHT.

SO IT'S DECIDED. LET'S HANG IN THERE, HITOSHI.

I'VE GOT THIS FRIEND WHO CAN HOOK US UP WITH WHATEVER WE NEED.

OH, NO WORRIES THERE.

B-BUT WHAT ABOUT THE BUDGET? WE CAN'T PUT ON A DANCE.

YEAH, THAT'S AN AWESOME IDEA! LET'S DO IT!

OH JEEZ.

GOD, CINDY SURE KNOWS HOW TO STIR UP TROUBLE.

ME? A FESTIVAL REP? YEAH, RIGHT!

OKAY, BUT THERE'S ONE CONDITION!

YEAH, I SECOND THAT!

LET'S MAKE CINDY-SAN OUR FESTIVAL REP!

I KNOW! WHY DON'T WE DO THIS?

WHAT?!

ME?!

♥
MY CO-REP HAS TO BE HITOSHI.

CINDY'S A FREAKIN' ACTRESS. THERE'S NO WAY THAT'D HAPPEN!

ARGH, AS IF!

...COULD I REALLY BE HER TYPE?

BUT...

Bleep

OH MY GOD, IT'S FROM CINDY!

You have 1 new message(s)

Subject: Festival Plans
E-Mail: CINDY@ktcup

!!

IT'S CINDY, AND NO HITOSHI MEANS NO EQUIPMENT.

COME ON, CYNTHIA-SAN. YOU CAN STILL CHANGE YOUR MIND!

HEY, DON'T BLAME ME!

YEAH, AIN'T SAATHI-SAN GOOD ENOUGH ANYMORE?!

HITOSHI, HOW MANY DAWN GIRL-FRIENDS YOU GOT?!



...THAT
YOU GET
TO GO ON
A DATE,
TOO?

OR DO
YOU
NOT LIKE
THE FACT...



OKAY,
TWO
ADULTS
THAT'LL
BE 2000
YEN.

TWO
LOVERS,
PLEASE.



SEE, THAT'S
EXACTLY WHY
PEOPLE MAKE
FUN OF YOU!
YOU'RE TOO
WISHY-WASHY
NOW COME
ON!!

OH, IT'S
NOT
THAT. IT'S
JUST-



C'MON,
THIS
WAY!
HURRY!

WHAT
ARE-?



NO, I'LL BE
NICE. AFTER
ALL, IT'S A
FESTIVAL
MEETING,
RIGHT?

Can
you tell
she's not
having fun?



CINDY,
W-
WAIT
UP!



AH,
GOOD!
YOU
MADE
IT!!



CINDY, WHAT
WERE YOU
THINKING?
THIS IS AN
AMUSEMENT
PARK.

I WAS
GETTING
WORRIED.



...WHY IS
CINDY-
SAN..?

HAH!
WHY
IS...



BUT HE DID
SAY HE HAD
PLANS. WAS
HE REALLY
LYING
THEN?

HOW
COULD
YOU
HITOSHI-
SAN?

YOU...
YOU LIED
TO US
JUST TO
BE WITH
CINDY-
SAN.



IT DOESN'T
MATTER
WHERE
WE MEET,
DOES IT?

UM, I THOUGHT
WE WERE
MEETING ABOUT
THE FESTIVAL. I
EVEN BROUGHT MY
LAPTOP. SEE?





WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

Control room

アアア...

HERE'S HOPI-
ING THE
INFRARED
INTER-
FACED
MONITOR

HITOSH-
SAN'S
GOT HIS
LAPTOP!

DARN,
THERE'S
NO WAY I
CAN TRAIL
THEM UP
THERE.

OH,
NOTHING

WHA-
HUNH?

IT'S OKAY,
THOUGH.
IT'S ONE OF
YOUR BEST
QUALITIES.

ヒム?

EXCUSE ME!

LET'S
MOVE 'EM
OUT!

AW-
RIGHTY!

HOLY
CRAP!

YEP, A
SLOW
ONE
JUST
FOR
YOU

OUR NEXT
STOP IS
THE FERRIS
WHEEL?

OH
WOW!

WHY DOES
HE LOOK
LIKE HE'S
HAVING SO
MUCH FUN?



...SHE, UM, TOOK ME HERE ONCE... WHEN I WAS TWO.

BACK WHEN MY MAMA WAS ALIVE...

AH, GOOD THIS ISN'T ACTUALLY MY FIRST TIME HERE.

UH, NO! NOT AT ALL... YOU'VE BEEN GREAT.



OF COURSE, I DON'T REMEMBER IT, BUT...



...HOW THE SUNSET LOOKED THAT DAY.

...I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED...



A SIDE UNSEEN...



WOW, UP THERE.

CHECK OUT THE VIEW!



Blip

BUT IF SAAT/ SEES ME HERE, I'M SCREWED.

WELL, NO MATTER HOW YOU CUT IT... THIS REALLY IS A DATE.



IT GOT PRETTY HARRY FOR A MOMENT THERE.

AH GOOD, I'M INSIDE



SAY, HITOSHI?



I WASN'T TOO MUCH OF A BOTHER WAS I?

ABOUT TODAY...

I LIKE IT
WHEN
YOU'VE
GOT THAT
SPUNK.

HUH?

SAY,
CINDY?

UH,
YEAH?

...BUT IT'S
TIMES LIKE
THESE THAT
PROVE SHE'S
JUST LIKE
ANYONE ELSE.

...USUALLY CINDY'S
REALLY PERKY
AND PUTTING ON
HER RICH, ACTRESS
FACE...

AH,
HITOSHI...
I TAKE IT BACK—
YOU ARE COOL!

WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

WHA—?

LOOKS
THAT WAY.
I THINK
WE BROKE
DOWN.

DID...
DID WE
JUST
STOP?!

AAHH!

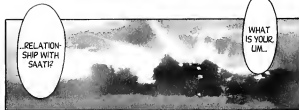
...OVER-
LOADED
THE
CIRCUITS
TRYING TO
GET HERE.

UH OH, I
THINK I
MIGHT'VE...

EH HEH HEH!
SORRY, YOU
JUST SEEM
MUCH MORE
LIKE YOURSELF
WHEN YOU'RE
ANGRY.

HITOSHI,
YOU LITTLE...
UGH,
DON'T SAY
STUFF
LIKE THAT!

EH?



...RELATIONSHIP WITH SAATHI?

WHAT IS YOUR UM...



!!

!!



YOU LOVE HER, RIGHT?

UH, WH- WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?!

ARE YOU LIKE A COUPLE?

WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME THIS?!



UH--

HERE'S AN EASIER ONE...

HITOSHI...

...HOW DO YOU, UM, FEEL ABOUT ME?



JUST CHILL. IT'LL GET FIXED. SEE, THE OTHER STUFF'S STILL RUNNING.

WHAT DO WE DO? WE'RE, LIKE, RIGHT AT THE TOP!



FOR WHAT?



DIDN'T YOU JUST HELP CHEER ME UP?



OH, AND, HITOSHI?

THANKS.

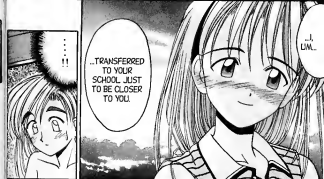


ANYWAY, UM, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

TEE HEE. WELL, NEVER MIND.



OH, THAT WAS JUST, UH--



BUT WHY HAVE YOU BEEN FOLLOWING US?

...I KNOW YOU'RE BACK THERE.

SAATI...

.....



YOU THINK I'M TEASING HIM? I'M NOT.

UH, CINDY-SAN, UM, P-PLEASE STOP TEASING HITOSHI-SAN. I-



WHEN DID YOU FIGURE OUT IT WAS ME?



HLUH?

JUST A MOMENT AGO.



PHEW.



OH GOD, WE'RE SAVED!

ARGH! WE'RE MOVING!



WELL, UH, SEE YA.

HEY, I HAD FUN TODAY. THANKS.

YEAH, SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.



I THINK WE SHOULD FINISH THE FESTIVAL STUFF TOMORROW.



BYE.

A.I.
LOVE YOU



 **Program.46 ▶**



The Last Scene is Mine! Part 1



LOVE YOU

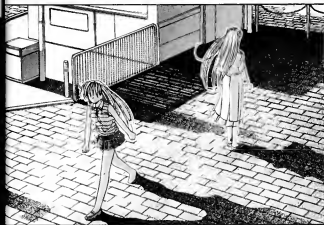
Program 46 ▶

☐ The Last Scene is Mine! Part 1 ☐



...MY
FEELINGS
FOR HIM.

I'M
DEAD
SERIOUS
ABOUT...



AH, DAMMIT! I
KNEW I SHOULD'VE
KISSED HER!!
CRAP!!





NOTE TO SELF: DON'T STAY UP LATE AGAIN! DON'T TAKE THIS!

JEEZ, THAT WAS ONE SERIOUS WAKE-UP CALL.

KID, THAT'S NOT A CROSS-WALK!

DON'T CROSS THERE!

DA RR GG HH!!

わて わて

おんや

WASN'T SAATI WITH ME?

WAIT.

GOD, BUT THE POSSIBILITIES...

...WHAT WAS CINDY THINKING ANYWAY?



OH MY GOD!!



...HITOSHI-SAN AND CINDY-SAN...

IF THE POWER HADN'T COME BACK ON...



I, UM...

...TRANSFERRED TO YOUR SCHOOL. JUST TO BE CLOSER TO YOU.



OH, CINDY--



AH.. STOP..

HITOSHI--

..N-NOT...

... ..



...NOT THERE..

CINDY--



...NOT THERE!

NOW DON'T
START
SPAZZIN'
THIS IS
GONNA BE
A GREAT
DAY!



UH-
SURE.



AIN'T IT
THE TRUTH,
SAAT?



P-PER-
VERTED?
ME?!

AND, HITOSHI?
YOU KEEP
THEM
PERVERTED
THOUGHTS
IN CHECK,
GOT IT?

I'M DEAD
SERIOUS
ABOUT...



MY
FEELINGS
FOR HIM



WHAT
AM I
GOING
TO DO?



SAAT!



KYAAA!



IT'S
WHAT I
GET FOR
ACTIN'
SPACEY

THAT
LOOKED
LIKE IT
HURT.



UM,
Y-YES,
HIT'S
NICE.

EHEH! UH,
NICE. UH,
WEATHER,
HUH?



HEY, YOU
TWO! GOOD
MORNIN'!

AND WITH THIS
WICKED-COOL
SCRIPT I WROTE, WE
CAN'T GO WRONG!!

THE
TITLE
IS...

IT'S
NOVICE-
FRIENDLY
AND
SHIPPED
DIRECT
FROM
THE GOOD
FOLKS
AT IGN!

WHY, JUST
THE BEST
IN TOP-OF-
THE LINE
STAGE
EQUIP-
MENT!

SINCE
WHEN ARE
WE DOING
A PLAY? I
THOUGHT
IT WAS A
DANCE!

WHAT
THE
HELL'S
THIS?!

FESTIVAL
PROJECT:
CLASS PLAY

JINMENGYO

THAT'S
RIGHT!

JINMENGYO*!!

WHY DIDNT
YOU JUST
SAY THE
ENGLISH
TITLE
INSTEAD
OF SOME
OFFBEAT
JAPANESE
ONE?!

I THINK
MOST OF YOU
PROBABLY
KNOW IT AS
THE LITTLE
MERMAID.

AH HA HA!
OH, IT'S
QUITE A
FAMOUS
STORY
BY HANS
CHRISTIAN
ANDER-
SON.

THE
MAN-
FACED
FISH?

IT'S THE
PERFECT
STORY FOR
THE PERFECT
FESTIVAL!

PERFECT!

IT'S THE
STORY OF A
POOR MERMAID
PRINCESS WHO
LONGS FOR A
PRINCE!

IS IT A
SCI-FI
STORY?!

BUT
THERE'S
ONLY HAVE
A WEEK!

W-WAIT
A SEC.
ONLY, WE
DIDN'T...

SO WE'RE
GONNA PUT ON
A PLAY THAT'S
GONNA EXCITE
THE HEARTS
OF EVERYONE!

OH WE'RE
DOIN' BOTH.
SEE, A DANCE
JUST DOESN'T
HAVE THAT
MAIN EVENT
KICK.

I'VE GOT
CONNECTIONS
COMIN'
OUT THE
WAZOO.

RELAX.
IT'S
COVERED.

WHAT
THE
HECK IS
THAT?!

OH MAN,
IS THAT A
HELICOPT-
TER?!

*Jinmengyo means a fish with a human face or head. Examples include the fish in *Monkey*, *Python's The Meaning of Life* and the video game *Seymour*.



HUH?!

SAAT'D BE PERFECT!!



ANYONE NOT GET A COPY OF THE SCRIPT YET?

WE'LL BE THERE!

OKAY, GOOD. REHEARSALS START TOMORROW.



THIS PLAY'S STARTIN' TO SOUND EVEN BETTER!

WHOA, NOW WE'VE GOT TWO BABES IN THE LEAD!



UH, HOLD ON, CINDY, YOU CAN'T JUST--



SO WHY DON'T WE MAKE IT AS FUN AS WE CAN?

THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL'S SPOSED TO BE A PARTY, RIGHT?



COUNT ME IN!
WAIT, THIS ISN'T A CONTEST, IS IT?

HECK, YEAH! I'D PAY TO SEE THAT!

IF YA DO, THEN WE'LL DEFINITELY WIN!



SO HOW 'BOUT IT? WANT ME AS THE LEAD?



I CALL DIBS ON THE SMOKE MACHINE!

WITH THAT BITCHIN' SET-UP, WE MIGHT JUST PULL IT OFF!



WHAT?! NO WAY!!

HITOSHI HAS TO BE THE PRINCE!



I HAVE JUST ONE MORE REQUEST.



OH, I KNOW!

DON'T BLAME ME!

EMON, JUST SHARE ONE!

SWERY TIME! YOU GOT IT?

サワサワ

AND THEN THERE'S THE MATTER OF THE RIVAL... THE HUMAN PRINCESS.



YOU LEAVE THAT OUT SO, IF THE SCRIPT GETS LEAKED, THEN NO ONE CAN SPOIL IT.

SEE, IT'S AN OLD HOLLY-WOOD TRICK.

YEAH, YEAH! OKAY, OKAY. KEEP IT DOWN.

WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU LEAVE THAT OUT?!

B-BUT STILL--

BESIDES, THE LAST SCENE'S EASY. THERE AREN'T ANY LINES ANYWAY.

JUST RELAX A LITTLE.

DON'T WORRY. I'VE GOT IT COVERED.

I BETTER SEE WHAT THE STORY'S REALLY ABOUT. OH, IT'S ABOUT A MERMAID PRINCESS.

JUDGING FROM THE TITLE, THE STORY IS ABOUT A FISH-MAN.

THE LITTLE MERMAID... HMM.

EVEN IN GRADE SCHOOL, ALL I'VE EVER BEEN WERE TREES AND ROCKS.

I'M NO ACTOR. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO LEARN THIS IN A WEEK?

LIGHT, FIRST A DANCE AND NOW A PLAY. WHAT'S SHE ON?

WELL, AT LEAST THE PRINCE DOESN'T HAVE TOO MANY LINES.

THE LITTLE MERMAID. HUH?

WHERE'S THE LAST SCENE?

...WHAT'S WITH THIS SCRIPT?

WAIT...

YEAH, I, UH... I KINDA LEFT THAT BLANK ON PURPOSE.

OH THAT.



BUT SINCE SHE CANNOT SPEAK, SHE CANNOT PROFESS HER LOVE.

THE MERMAID NOW A HUMAN GIRL, BEFRIENDS HER HANDSOME PRINCE.



SHE COULDN'T JUST HELPED HER OUT FOR FREE!

ピンチ

THAT'S JUST MEAN!



YET, IF THIS COMES TO PASS, THEN THE MERMAID SHALL DIE AND HER BODY RETURN TO FOAM.

WHAT?!

WHEN THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS ANNOUNCE THEY ARE TO MARRY.



...AND CAN'T BRING HERSELF TO HARM HIM

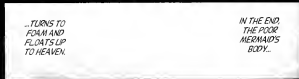
HOWEVER THE MERMAID LOVES THE PRINCE DEARLY...



IF YOU KILL THE PRINCE, YOUR LIFE WILL BE SPARED!

ONEESAMA?

JUST THEN THE MERMAID'S OWN SISTERS ARRIVE BEARING A MAGIC DAGGER.



...TURNS TO FOAM AND FLOATS UP TO HEAVEN.

IN THE END, THE POOR MERMAID'S BODY...



THE MERMAID RESCUES THE PRINCE AND SWIMS HIM TO DRY LAND.

THEN ONE NIGHT A STORM COMES AND SINKS THE PRINCESS'S SHIP.

ONE DAY AFTER TURNING FIFTEEN, SHE SEES A PRINCE GLIDING HIS SHIP AND FALLS IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.

AAAAH HE'S DREAMY.



AND HIDES HIM BACK TO HEALTH AS THE MERMAID LOOKS ON FROM THE SHADOWS.

OH, THAT'S MY ROLE.

THERE A HUMAN PRINCESS FINDS THE WATER-LOGGED PRINCE...



SO SHE VISITS THE SEA-WITCH IN ORDER TO TRY TO BECOME HUMAN.

THE MERMAID CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT THE HANDSOME PRINCE.

PLEASE, RETURN WITH ME TO MY CASTLE.

AH, MY LADY, YOU HELPED ME, DIDN'T YOU?

HOWEVER SHOULD YOU NOT MARRY YOUR PRINCE YOU SHALL DIE AND TURN TO FOAM!

IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR BEAUTIFUL VOICE, I SHALL GIVE YOU LEGS.



OKAY, LET'S
START WITH
SCENE THREE!

かき

かき

UH, RIGHT!

SURE

QUICK,
WHO'S
GOT A
CAMERA?!

YOW! TWO
HOTTIES
IN LEO-
TARDS!

THE ACTOR'S
HIGH. OOH,
I LOVE THIS
FEELIN'.

HEH
HEH
HEH!
THAT'S
IT.

LIGHTS!

SOUND!!



HE FELL
FOR THAT
OTHER
PUSSY AND
NEVER EVEN
REALIZED
THE
MERMAID
REALLY
LOVED
HIM!

THAT
POOR
WITTLE
MER-
MAID...

AND
THE
MOM
OF
THAT
PRINCE

OH, WHAT
A SAD
STORY!

WE'RE
GETTING
READY
TO RUN
THROUGH
OUR
LINES.

HEY,
SAATI-
SAN?

HUH?

...I'VE
ACTUALLY
HEARD THIS
STORY
BEFORE.

WAIT,
I FEEL
LIKE...

IF SHE LOVES
HIM, THEN IT
SHOULDN'T
MATTER IF
SHE'S HUMAN
OR NOT!

OH,
COMING!



CRAP,
I FORGOT
ABOUT
THAT.

YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO
CAST
IT!



UGH, I AM
SOOO NOT
DIGGIN' THIS
CASTING.



ME?!



GUESS
WHAT?
YOU'RE
THE NEW
LEAD!

HEY
THERE,
SAAT!



DAMN,
SHE'S
GOOD!

DON'T YOU
REMEMBER
ME?

PRINCE!!



...LIM,
UH...

UH...



...LINE,
PLEASE



LOOK
HERE.
SEE?
SHE
STILL
HAS
LINES

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?



IF THE MERMAID
TRADED HER VOICE
FOR SOME LEGS,
THEN HOW CAN SHE
STILL TALK?

HUH?



HUH?
THAT'S
WEIRD.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOIN',
HITOSHI?
QUIT
SCREWIN'
AROUND!







...THEY
FELL
OFF!

UMP
UMP

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?
LEGGO OF
HIM!

HEY!

STOP
YANKING!
MY TAIL'S
GONNA
COME
OFF!

I DON'T
CARE!
JUST GET
OFF OF
HIM!!

YOU MEAN...
THOSE
ARE YOUR
BOOBS?!



THIS...
THIS IS
AMAZING!!

OMIGOD!
OMIGOD!
OMIGOD!



NOW
THAT'S
SOME
DEDI-
CATION.

CHECK
OUT THAT
ACTING.



WHOOOAAAA!



YOU'RE RIGHT,
THIS SHOW'S
GONNA BE
AMAZING.

IT DOESN'T
EVEN LOOK
LIKE THEY'RE
ACTING.



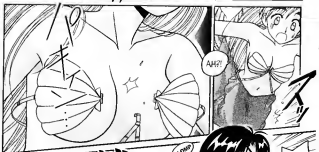
STARING?
UH, I'M NOT
STARING!
I'M JUST, UH,
THINKING ABOUT
HOW GREAT
YOU LOOK.

WHAT
ARE YOU
STARING
AT?



HI-
HITOSHI-
SA--

REALLY?
I'M SO
GLAD YOU
LIKE IT!

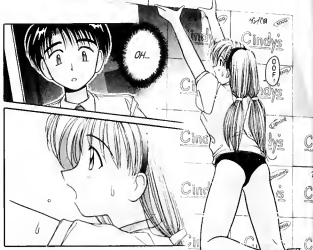


AH?!



OH MY GOD, ARE
THOSE HER...?

OOF!



BUT I'LL
STICK
AROUND
AND
HELP.

カ
ア
ア

...BUT SHE'S
ACTUALLY
A PRETTY
HARD
WORKER,
AND SHE'S
CUTE.

SHE MIGHT
COMPLAIN
A LOT..

DOOPS!

カ
ア
ア

HIS IMAGE
OF ME IS
GONNA GET
TOTALY
TWISTED

GYAH, I
CAN'T
BELIEVE
HE SAW
ME LIKE
THIS.

HUH?
WHY
ARE THE
STAGE
LIGHTS
STILL
ON?

BOY,
HITOSHI-
SAN
SURE IS
LATE.

YOU
LOOKED
LIKE YOU
COULD USE
A HAND.

...HITOSHI?

HI..

NEED
ANY
OTHERS
PUT UP?

AND
THERE
YOU
GO.

カ
ア
ア

NOT
MANY
PEOPLE
LIKE TO
CLEAN
UP.

THAT'S
PRETTY
COOL
THAT YOU
STAYED
THOUGH.

THEY
DID, BUT
I KINDA
LEFT MY
BLAZER.

DIDN'T
EVERYONE
ELSE GO
HOME
ALREADY?

I, I CAN
HANDLE IT
BY MYSELF.

IF YOU NEED
HELP, WE
COULD HAVE
STAYED.

THIS
MUST BE
HOW THE
MERMAID
FELT



WELL,
EXCUSE
ME,
PRINCESS!

AH HA
HA HA! IS
THAT YOUR
IDEA OF
HELPING?



The day
of the
School
Festival

WE
DIDN'T
MISS
IT, DID
WE?

ME
WANNA
SEE
SEBASTIAN!

HEY,
LOOKIN'
GOOD,
HITOSHI
BABY!

SO,
WHERE'S
THIS
GREAT
PLAY
GONNA
BE?

HEY,
TONI,
WHAT'S
UP,
FORTY-
CHAN?

NOPE,
IT'S COMIN'
UP IN THE
AUDITORIUM.
I GOTTA GO
GET READY.



GO ON
AHEAD.
RIGHT.



YEP,
YOU'RE
A KILLER
ZOID.

JUST
DROP
IT, OKAY?



I
UNDERSTAND
NOW.

...UNSCRIPTED.

...TOTALLY...
COMPLETELY...
UTTERLY...

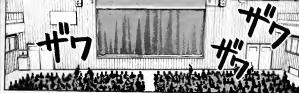
HUH?

...THE
PRINCESS
OR THE
MERMAID.

THINK
ABOUT IT. NO
ONE KNOWS
WHETHER
THE PRINCE
WILL
CHOOSE...

...TO DECIDE
WHICH OF
US HE LIKES
MORE.

WE'LL
JUST
LEAVE
IT UP TO
HITOSHI...



UH-

MISS
MERMAID,
EVERYTHING
READY?

THREE
MINUTES
TO
CURTAIN,
PEOPLE!

OH MY,
THERE
SURE ARE
A LOT OF
PEOPLE
HERE.

CINDY-SAN
LOOKS
GORGEOUS!

AH!

DON'T
WORRY.
IT'S
REALLY
EASY.

HEY,
I THINK IT'S
ABOUT TIME
WE TALKED
ABOUT
THAT LAST
SCENE.

THE
LAST
SCENE
IS...

O-
OKAY



AI

LOVE YOU!

Special Edition
Telephone Card Collection

Part.4

Thanks!
The First
Anniversary

1995. NO. 9
ORIGINAL
ANNIVERSARY
PRESENT
TELEPHONE CARD

MAGAZINE SPECIAL

OUR WINTER TELEPHONE
CARDS HAVE A SWEET
SWELLING CHARM TO THEM.

MAGAZINE SPECIAL



A-I think so
KEN AKAMATSU

A SPECIAL, BY-REQUEST-
ONLY TELEPHONE CARD.



IS IT A
DEAL?

WELL...

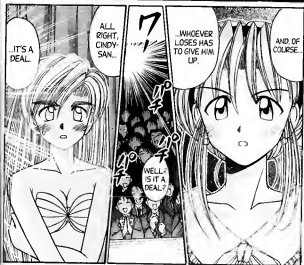
AND, OF COURSE,
WHOEVER
LOSES
HAS TO
GIVE HIM
UP.

CUE THE
CURTAIN!!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
WE NOW BRING YOU CLASS
C'S PRESENTATION OF
THE LITTLE MERMAID

...IT'S A
DEAL...

ALL
RIGHT,
CINDY-
SAN...





I'VE GOT IT!

IS THERE NOTHING I CAN DO FOR HIM?

OH, WHAT SHALL I DO? MY PRINCE HAS DROWNED!

SOON A TERRIBLE STORM CAME AND SANK THE MIGHTY PRINCE'S SHIP.

THEN THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO MARRY HIM!

IF CINDY'S NOT GOING TO FIGHT FAIR...

PLEASE LET THIS BE ENOUGH!

IT SEEMS MY ONLY HOPE IS MOUTH-TO-MOUTH!

THAT LUCKY BASTARD!

SAAT? THAT'S NOT IN THE

HEY!

AND COULD THAT BE A.A. PRINCE?

AH!

THAT MUST BE A SHIP.

HUH?

ACK! I KNEW I FORGOT SOMETHING!

SIRE, Y-YOUR CLOTHES!

WHERE IS THIS PRINCESS YOU SPEAK OF?

IT IS I, PRINCE HITOSH!

WH-WHAT?

わはは
ははは

YES, THE PRINCE'S FAVORITE PASTIME WAS FLASHING HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS.

EEGH! THAT MERMAID SURE HAS BAD TASTE!

O HO HO HO HO!

AND THE MERMAID WASN'T TOO BAD HERSELF.

OH... WHAT A HANDSOME PRINCE!

LET'S KEEP TO THE SCRIPT.

COME ON CINDY-SAN.





OUT IT OUT!
THE STORY'S
NOT GOING
ANYWHERE!

YOU
SHOULD
BE ONE
TO TALK!

ARGH
WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING?



THE LITTLE
MERMAID WAS
SUDDENLY
GRANTED LEGS
AND WAS ABLE
TO JOIN THE
HUMAN WORLD.

I'LL HAVE
TO SHIFT
MY PLANS
INTO HIGH
GEAR DURING
THE DANCE
SCENE.

DAMN THAT
LITTLE
MERMAID!



CALISE
THIS
SCRIPT'S
NOTHIN'
LIKE THE
ORIGINAL!

DID I MISS
A REWRITE
HERE OR
SOMETHING?



THAT
SOUNDS
FUN!

THEN ONE
EVENING, THE
PRINCE HELD
A ROYAL BALL
AT HIS CASTLE
AND ALL WERE
INVITED.



NO
PANTIES!

KYAAAAHH!!

D
A
R
G
H
!!

M
O
O
M
P
H!

LOOKS LIKE
IT'S MY
TURN THEN.

OOPSIE
SORRY!

HYAAAAHH!!

Z
O
I
N
K
S!





YOU DUMMY,
WHAT ARE
YOU BLABBIN'
ABOUT?!



I'M ALL
FLUSHED!

OH
NO!



AND
NEXT
UP IS
PRINCESS
SAAT!



CINDY
SURE
KNOWS
HOW TO
MOTIVATE
YOU!

WOW, SO
ALL IT
TAKES IS
A LITTLE
CONFIDENCE,
HUH?



YOU
JUST HAVE
TO THINK
POSITIVELY.

SEE, YOU
CAN DO
ANYTHING
IF YOU PUT
YOUR MIND
TO IT.



YEAH.

MAN,
THEY'RE
GOOD!



DO
THE LAM-
BADA!

WHO
KNEW
HITOSHI
COULD
DANCE?



I MET
YOU,
CINDY.

I'M
REALLY
GLAD..



THANKS

AND YOU
KNOW
WHAT?





I DON'T SEE HOW CINDY DOES IT. IT'S LIKE SHE ISN'T EVEN ACTING.

BESIDES, THIS ACTIN' STUFF'S PRETTY HARD.

...WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO BE DOING AT THE END. I HOPE IT'S NOTHING TOO HARD.

THAT REMINDS ME. CINDY STILL HASN'T TOLD ME...

IT'S SO MUCH FUN THAT IT'S LIKE WE'RE NOT EVEN DOING A PLAY.

I MEAN WE ACT LIKE WE ALWAYS DO OUT THERE.



AND WHEN SHE TURNED RED, THAT WAS ACTUALLY BELIEVABLE.



OH HEY, CINDY.

HMM?

OH.

YEAH?

BUT, UM--

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN!

HOW ABOUT THIS? WANNA TRY AND KEEP THE LAUGHS TO A MINIMUM?

UH, N- NOTHING.

WAIT, BUT ISN'T THAT--

WHAT?! YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?

I'LL...I'LL LET YOU DECIDE.

I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHOM I'M SUPPOSED TO CHOOSE.

I WAS WONDERING, UM, HOW DOES THE LAST SCENE GO?

WHOEVER YOU DECIDE, THE OTHER WON'T COMPLAIN.

CHOOSE WHOEVER YOU LIKE.



SEE YA



BYE, HITOSHISAN.



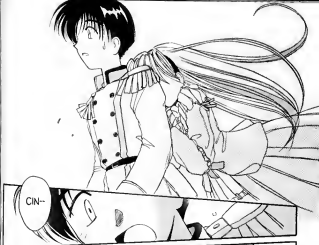
COME ON,
PLACES
PEOPLE!!



FINALLY, THE
FATED DAY
ARRIVED WHEN
THE PRINCE
WOULD HAVE TO
CHOOSE...



...WHICH OF
THE LADIES
HE WANTED
AS HIS QUEEN.
PRINCESS SAATI
OR PRINCESS
CINDY.



CIN--

IF YOU DON'T
CHOOSE ME...
I'LL....

CHOOSE
ME,
HITOSHI.



TO
AMERICA.

...I'LL
GO
BACK...

UM, WILL PRINCESS CINDY PLEASE PROFESS HER LOVE?

FIRST, WE SHALL HEAR PRINCESS CINDY PROFESS HER FEELINGS.

I DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT SHE WAS GETTING AT BACK THERE...

PLEASE, EVERYONE, A ROUND OF APPLAUSE!

AND THOUGH IT WAS NO EASY TASK, AN ADDITION WAS HELD FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE.

UM, PRI...

...PRINCE HITOSHI...

...AND THEN PRINCE HITOSHI WILL CHOOSE WHICH OF THEM SHALL BE HIS QUEEN.

THE RULES ARE SIMPLE: BOTH PRINCESSES WILL PROFESS THEIR LOVE...

...I LOVE YOU.

PLEASE, I'D LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN TO BE YOUR WIFE.

THANKS FORTY-CHAN

HUH? OH, WELL, YEAH.

IF THE LITTLE MERMAID ISN'T CHOSEN, DOESN'T SHE, LIKE, DIE AND STUFF?

THEY...THEY TOTALLY BUTCHERED THE ENDING.

UM, ONEESAMA?

YOU CAN DO IT!

YEAH, HANG IN THERE, ARIEL!



ANY TIME
YOU'RE READY,
PRINCESS
SAATI.



THIS IS SO
EMBARRASSING!

OH DEAR,
EVERYONE'S
LOOKING AT ME.



...CINDY
SAYLL
WIN.

BUT IF
I DON'T
SAY
SOME-
THING...



IT'S SO MUCH
FUN THAT IT'S
LIKE WE'RE
NOT EVEN DO-
ING A PLAY.

I MEAN WE
ACT LIKE WE
ALWAYS DO
OUT THERE.



PICK
HER!
PICK
HER!!

BRAVO!
BRAVO!!

CINDY, I'D
MARRY
YOU!



I DON'T
KNOW.
PLAY-
ACTING?

ONE MINUTE
SHE'S ACTING
AND THE
NEXT SHE'S...

...WHEN I DON'T
EVEN KNOW
WHAT'S GOING
ON ANYMORE.

HOW AM I
SUPPOSED TO
DO ANYTHING...



OR DO I
REALLY...?

DO I JUST
PLAY ALONG?



WHA--?

AND NOW
WE HAVE
PRINCESS
SAATI
READY TO
MAKE HER
DECLARA-
TION.



UGH OF
COURSE
SHE'S
ONLY
ACTING.

WHAT
WAS I
THINKING?



AND THEN
SIMPLY
SEAL YOUR
COMMITMENT
WITH A
KISS!



IT'S
SHOWING

YOU'VE
BECOME
A LITTLE
BIT MORE
HUMAN
THAN
BEFORE

...I'LL
LET YOU
DECIDE.

HITOSHI-
SAN...



PRINCE
HITOSHI,
YOU
RULE!!

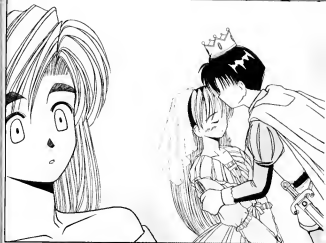
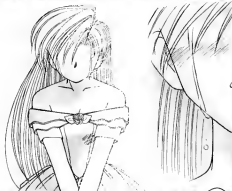
PRINCE
HITOSHI,
IF YOU
WOULD,
PLEASE
MAKE YOUR
DECISION
NOW!



AND
THERE
YOU
HAVE
IT!



SMIFF
SMIFF



10
アアアッ



WA-
WAIT,
SAAT!

...WITHOUT
THE LOVE OF
MY ONE TRUE
PRINCE.

...DESTINED
TO TURN TO
FOAM AND
PASS ON.



I ASK
ONLY
THAT YOU...



I HOPE
THAT YOU
TWO WILL
FIND
HAPPINESS.

PRINCESS
CNDY IS A
NICE GIRL.



...ONCE
I'M
GONE.

...WILL
REMEMBER
ME...

PLEASE
CHECK
AROUND
YOUR
SEATS
FOR ANY
PERSONAL
ITEMS AND
THANK YOU
FOR
COMING.

AND THIS
CONCLUDES
CLASS C'S
PRESENTATION
OF THE
LITTLE
MERMAID.

THE
RAVE'S
NOT 'TIL
LATER,
SO, UM,
WANNA
SEE ANY-
THING?

UH,
HEY,
ONNY.

WE DID IT!
THIS PLAY
WAS
EX-
CELLENT!!

BUT,
UH...

UH,
SURE...



WHA
-?!

...ONCE I'M
GONE

...WILL
REMEMBER
ME...



AND TRYING TO DELETE HER PROGRAM CORE! BUT WHY'S SHE DOING THAT?!

OH NO, RIGHT NOW SHE'S RELEASING ALL OF HER PROGRAM OPTIONS...

COME ON, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO MONITOR HER POWER LEVELS FROM HERE.

YOU SHOULD BE MORE FOCUSED ON SAATI!

YOU IDIOT, SHE'S TRYING TO STOP ALL HER FUNCTIONS!

OH, RIGHT, ROGER!

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I MEAN!

YOU DON'T MEAN SHE'S...!!

I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN HER AND THAT ONDY GIRL...

A.I.S DON'T HIBERNATE!!

SHE'S GONNA HIBERNATE FOR THE WINTER?!

BUT WHATEVER SHE'S DOIN IS PRETTY DAMN INSANE.

I DIDN'T SEE HER BACKSTAGE.

DID YOU SEE WHERE SAATI WENT?

DON'T YOU THINK SHE PROBABLY, UM, WENT HOME?

DON'T...

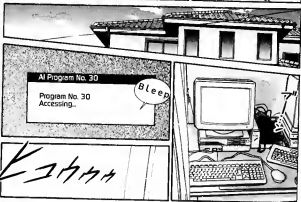
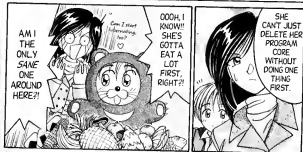
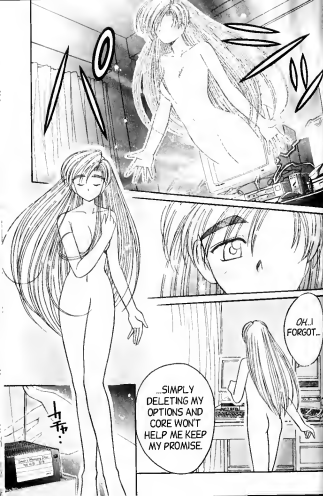
SAATI...

UH, SOUNDS GOOD.

ANYWAY, I'M STARVIN'. LET'S GO GET SOME TAKOYAKI*.

DO YOU ENJOY HEARIN' YOURSELF TALK?

FORTY-TWO... FORTY-THREE--



I'M JUST A PROGRAM. IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD EVER REALL Y MAKE HIM HAPPY.



HITOSHI-SAN HAS A REAL GIRLFRIEND NOW. HE DOESN'T NEED ME ANYMORE.

AH HA! SO THERE YOU ARE.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HITOSHI FOR ME.

THE LEAST I CAN DO IS TO KEEP MY PROMISE TO CINDY-SAN

?!

NOW IS THIS ANY WAY TO SAY GOOD-BYE?

NO, FORTY-CHAN, IT'S--



SAATI-NEESAN! I PROMISE! I'LL BE GOOD!!

BUT WHY? IS IT 'CAUSE I'M ALWAYS CAUSIN' TROUBLE?

SAATI-NEESAN, ARE YOU GONNA JUST DISAPPEAR?

BUT DAWN, WHY TODAY?



GOD, I KNEW THIS DAY'D COME.

IT'S HARD TO THINK THAT THESE LITTLE DISCS...

...HAVE ALL OF MY MEMORIES STORED ON THEM.



IF THESE ARE STILL AROUND, THEN I CAN STILL BE RESET EVEN IF MY MAIN PROGRAM IS ERASED.



THERE'S STILL A COPY OF MY MEMORIES SAVED TO DISC.



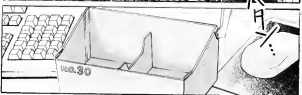
...WHO AM I KIDDING?



AH...









A-ARE
YOU, UH...?

SA-
SAATI?



ARGH!

AND HER
PROGRAM
CORE'S
BEING
PURGED?!

OH SHIT!
ALL
OF HER
PROGRAM
OPTIONS
ARE GONE!

Bleep



EVEN I CAN'T
RESTORE AN A.I.
PROGRAM AFTER
IT'S PROGRAM
CORE HAS BEEN
ERASED!

カチ
カチ
カチ

SAATI, WHY
THE HELL
WOULD YOU
DO THIS TO
YOURSELF?!

カチ
カチ
カチ

NO...
EVEN
THOSE?

SHE
TOOK
THOSE?



?!

CONTROL-
ALT-DELETE
WON'T EVEN
WORK! SHE'S
COMPLETELY
BLOCKING MY
COMMANDS!

D
A
M
N
I
T
!!



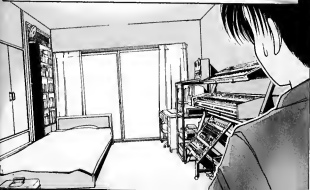
...THAT
IT WAS
FOR
REAL?!

HOW
WAS I
SUPPOSED
TO KNOW...

DAMNIT
ALL!



SAATI!!!







PLEASE,
HITOSHI...
LOVE
ONLY ME.

I KNOW YOU
CAN FEEL
MY HEART
BEATING.
I'M REAL.

YOU
KNOW
I'M REAL,
HITOSHI.



BUT I
CAN'T.

I'M
SORRY.



SAATZ.

HITOSHI, I
REALLY DO
LIKE YOU.

WE HAD
A DEAL.

WE BOTH DID.
THAT'S WHY.
WE HAD THAT
COMPETITION.

AND NOW,
SAATZ'S
GONNA
DISAPPEAR
JUST LIKE IN
THE PLAY.

...THEN
I'LL BE
YOUR NEW
GIRLFRIEND.

BECAUSE...

IT'S...IT'S
PERFECT.
ISN'T IT?





...IT'S GOT
OUR WHOLE
REHEARSAL
ON IT.

WELL,
THIS IS THE
ONE FROM
YESTERDAY...



HEH.
HITOSHI-
SAN EVEN
READ HIS
SCRIPT IN
THE BATH-
ROOM.

THAT
WAS
PRETTY
HARD.



...BUT IT
REALLY IS
THE PERFECT
PLACE FOR
THIS LITTLE
MERMAID
TO JUST
DISAPPEAR

IT SEEMS
PRETTY FAR
WITHOUT MY
PROGRAM
OPTIONS...

YES, THIS
IS A NICE
SPOT.



IT...IT WAS A LOT OF FUN.



IF NOT, AT LEAST LET ME BE REINCARNATED...



I WONDER DO ALL PROGRAMS GO TO HEAVEN?

HE DOESN'T NEED YOU ANYMORE

YOU AREN'T REAL, SAAT! JUST LET IT GO...



SAAT!!

AS A REAL PERSON.



OH DEAR...

ホチャン

...I'M POLLUTING THE ENVIRONMENT, AREN'T I?

AFTER THAT, WE WENT SKIING IN AOMORI.

...WHEN HITOSHI GOT ME EAR-RINGS.

THIS ONE'S VERY SPECIAL. IT'S FROM LAST CHRISTMAS.

I'M SORRY, MR. WATER. MAKE THESE MEMORIES YOUR OWN, KAY?

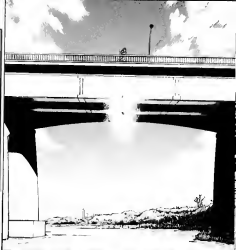
ホチャン

...WE GOT BACK AT FORTY AND SIX BY PRETENDING THERE WAS A BLACK CAT MONSTER.

AND THIS ONE WAS THE TIME.



THAT WAS FUN.







PROGRAM
OPTION
NUMBER
TWO!!



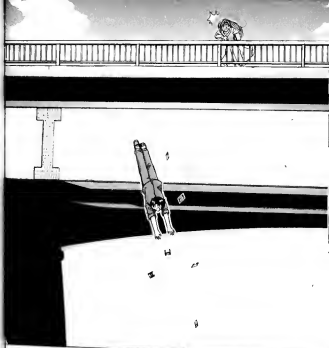
O' WATER
MOLECULES,
HEED MY
CALL!



OH NO, MY PROGRAM
OPTIONS...I FORGOT!

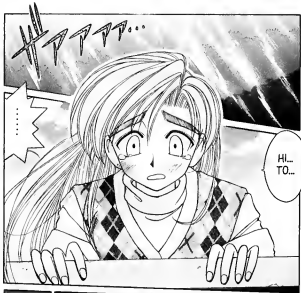


HITOSHI-
SAN!!



...HITOSHI-
SAN!!

Hi...





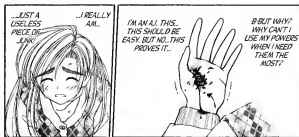
HITOSHI-SAN!!

AI
LOVE YOU



Program.48▶

◻ The Last Scene is Mine! Part 3 ◻

















YOU HEAR
ME, SAAT!?!
I WON'T LET
YOU GO!!

THERE'S NO
WAY I'LL
THROW OUR
LIFE AWAY!



!!



BWAH!

KYAAH!



AH!

EH?!



HELP!!



JUST GRAB
HER HAND,
PLEASE!!

THE OTHERS
ARE LONG
GONE! HOLDING
ONTO THAT WON'T
MAKE ANY
DIFFERENCE!

HITOSHI-
SAN,
PLEASE,
JUST LET
IT GO!!



IF YOU
DIE, THEN
IF WON'T
MATTER
ANYWAY!

LISTEN TO
HER, HITOSHI!
LET IT GO!!



AND SHE...
SHE JUST
THREW 'EM
AWAY!

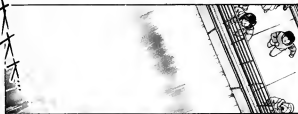
H-HOW CAN
SHE SAY IT
WON'T MAKE
ANY DIFFER-
ENCE?!

THESE
FLOPPIES
WERE OUR
LIFE...OUR
MEMORIES!



I CAN'T
LET GO OF
THAT.

BUT
I...







SO, LITTLE
MERMAID, YOU
TAKE GOOD
CARE OF THE
PRINCE FOR ME,
KAY? ♡

...BUT, SAATI,
YOU KNOW
WHAT? YOU
HAVE A BIGGER
HEART THAN
I DO.

CINDY-
SAN, YOU
MEAN--?

.....

LIM,
HEY,
CINDY?

OH,
THANK
GOOD-
NESS!

SAATI-
NEESAN!!

YOUR
HAIR
IT'S--

HLH,
WHAT?

IT LOOKS
GOOD,
HLH?

OH
THIS?

I WAS
ENVIOUS
OF HUMANS
AT FIRST,
BUT
NOW...

...NOW I'M
SO HAPPY
I WAS
BORN AN
A.I. PRO-
GRAM.

BECAUSE...
BECAUSE IT
ALLOWED
ME TO MEET
YOU BOTH.

YEAH,
WE'VE
ALL JUST
BEEN
THROUGH
A LOT...

OH...
CINDY-
SAN, LIM--

I
KNOW,
SAATI,
I
KNOW.

...AND WRAP THIS BABY UP WITH THE MOTHER OF ALL SLOW-DANCE!

ALL RIGHT EVERYBODY, WE'RE GONNA SLOW IT WAY DOWN A COUPLE OF NOTCHES.

7 7

But here, have an auto-graph!

You, sorry for the confusion.

And so the great cover-up was hatched as Cindy regaled everyone with how she was on location filming a stunt.

YEP, I'VE BEEN WANTING TO CUT IT FOR A WHILE NOW.

MY HAND?

SAATI, DID YOU GET YOUR HAND LOOKED AT? IS IT OKAY?

THAT'S ONE HYPER STAR.

On top of that, she still had plenty of time to rush back to school and host the dance.

THEM? WHO KNOWS.

HLH? WHERE'S KOBE-KUN AND SAATI-SAN?

HLH?

7 7

AGAIN, I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE, HITOSHI-SAN.

BYE BYE SEE!

UH, YEAH, RIGHT.

OH, DON'T BE SILLY, SIS. YOU KNOW A.I. PROGRAMS CAN'T BLEED.



YES OF
COURSE,
MY PRINCE.

MER...
MERMAID
PRINCESS
WOULD
YOU...

...WOULD
YOU...
BE MY
QUEEN?



BUT JEEZ,
I GOT SO
WORKED
UP...I DIDN'T
EVEN
REALIZE
WHAT I
WAS DOING.

EH, IT'S
LITERALLY
WATER
UNDER THE
BRIDGE.



A
FAVOR?

ACTUALLY,
I HAD A
UM, FAVOR
TO ASK
YOU.



...DO THAT
LAST
SCENE
OVER
AGAIN?

COULD
WE, UM...



GLADLY.

YES.

A.I.

Special Edition
Telephone Card Collection

KEN AKAMATSU

MAGAZINE
SPECIAL



1996,
NO. 8
A SPECIAL, BY-REQUEST-
ONLY TELEPHONE CARD.

I drew this picture of
all three programs in
wedding garb just for
the phone card.



1995, No. 8
Sent as a prize to 1,200
people.



Originally published in 1996's Shonen Magazine Special
issues 9 through 12 and issues 1 and 2 from 1997

▶To Be Continued

So she really works hard in her free time [laughs]?

Akamatsu: That's right. I think that's because of her background as a professional actor, but she really seems to be a character with a lot of passion. She's a very high-maintenance character, though. That's equally apparent in this volume's beach story [Program 44] since she changes her swimsuit three times and has an equally high number of hairstyle changes. And even then, I threw in the bit with her in the yukata as a bonus [laughs]. You might not have noticed, but this time around, I really got absorbed in my drawings. Luckily my assistants like Cindy, too, so they got to do a lot of fun stuff with her also [laughs].

Don't you feel that after Cindy was introduced that it seemed like she was more of a main character than Saati [laughs]?

Akamatsu: Oh, yes. In this book, there's a scene where Hitoshi is in RE class and Cindy is right there cheering for him. Back in volume one, Saati did the exact same thing [Program 11]. Anyway, the basic idea was kind of that, if the human Cindy is Saati's equal and she succeeds, then Saati isn't really necessary anymore and this eventually becomes A.I. Love You's biggest theme. Saati begins to realize this, too and figures out that if Hitoshi could find a girlfriend that is her equal, then she wouldn't really be needed anymore. That's true but, after all, Hitoshi did create Saati to be his perfect girlfriend. Unfortunately, when Cindy's story ended, I kind of felt that A.I. Love You had ended with it. Well, not necessarily that it had ended [there is volume B], but I felt that a part of it had. See, at the end of volume seven, Saati has won and Cindy has lost. That's why she has that one final change in hairstyle [laughs].

It was heartbreaking [laughs]. Did you ever feel like you wanted to see Cindy win?

Akamatsu: I talk about this in the character breakdowns, but Cindy really captured my heart [laughs]. I did feel like I wanted to see her win, but I just couldn't allow her to win [laughs]. See, I even let her appear to have won at first and it got really exciting for a while there. And believe me, this was probably the most exciting period in the whole series for me.

This was probably the most exciting period...

...in the whole series for me.

You could almost dub this volume "A.I. Love Cindy," couldn't you?

Akamatsu: Yes, you could say that, but then again, there are her scenes in volume 6 [laughs]. Anyway, up until now, a character like Cindy hadn't appeared. In every possible way, she is Saati's greatest rival. She's a very strong character with an intellect and physical power that's almost stronger than any of the A.I. programs and she had to be that way in order to rival Saati. Her name is Cindy, which sort of sounds like an A.I., but from the rumors I've heard, apparently she's not an IBN A.I. [laughs].

Do you feel like the pace of the story quickened after Cindy was introduced?

Akamatsu: Well, Cindy is a very high-tempo character. The increase in tempo began as soon as she was introduced and she, of course, became a very busy character. When she goes on a date with Hitoshi [Program 45], she has her hair in a ponytail, then tied up with a ribbon and eventually many other ways. It's always different, but if you noticed when you first saw her, she had her hair down, but after lunch she had it up. Sometimes her hair is even different in every scene. I wouldn't go through that much trouble drawing her if I didn't love her.

What part of her did you really pour your love into?

Akamatsu: Cindy is this character who tries very hard. During the play, she did all of the preparations while no one was looking. And the same goes for her hair. She changes that when no one is around also.

In every possible way...

...she is Saati's greatest rival.



KEN AKAMATSU Special talk

**THE WORLD OF
A.I. LOVE YOU**

**LOVE
HAIK!**

**KEN
AKAMATSU
TELLS ALL**

Musings from
Ken Akamatsu
about A.I.
Love You's most
powerful
character,
Cindy!

It was the fact she risked her life to save Hiroshi's that brought her closer to being human. Saell didn't know if her powers would ever return. She just wanted to be a human so badly, that her feedback function was responding to her desires. That's actually a change in the program itself. Of course, I didn't write about that at all [laughs].

I'd say Saell's tragic moment in the middle of Program 47 had an even stronger impact on readers.

Akamatsu: Yes. Exactly! I actually didn't even change the original storyboards for that scene at all. I was so into it, I showed it to my editors and got the okay and I immediately started inking it. I was utterly absorbed in it.

Some readers have written in saying they can really empathize with Saell's sigh.

Akamatsu: I really like this section because I was so into it. The illustrations are good because the images would just come to me and I'd throw them on paper [laughs].

To this day I still get letters about A.I. Love You. I guess it was a good series. There are even a lot of fans that actually like A.I. Love You more than Love Hina. I hear they even prefer the original nine-volume release to this eight volume one. Honestly, though, there aren't any stories like this in Love Hina. And I'll say, a teatanker really requires you to be involved in writing the story and it takes a long time.

I had a lot of time to write A.I. Love You, though, so I really got to do a good job. Just look at Cindy, she is a very clearly defined character. I didn't even have to make her do anything. She just seemed to move on her own. On top of that, none of the characters really had a hidden agenda, so you could really take them at face value.

So do you have anything you would like to add about volume seven or the upcoming final volume?

Akamatsu: Well, this story had its share of hairstyle and costume changes, but it also had an equal amount of character changes. Hiroshi, Saell and Cindy all grew up quite a bit in this one. I also think that this book has a real concrete feeling to it if you read it straight through...especially The Little Mermaid story arc. This one gives me a real feeling of completion, but let's not forget that the next volume is also a real favorite of mine. So here's hoping that you all read it!

I was...

...utterly absorbed in it.

Toni and Forty seemed to get quieter after Cindy appeared.

Akamatsu: Right. Forty even made the sad statement, "I'm a reject. But if I disappear for now, there's a chance I can come back all fixed, as good as new." Of course, that's true, but still... [laughs] In this volume, though, their characters became really likable. Toni became a really nice girl and it is all because of Cindy [laughs]. She was one remarkable influence.

Hiroshi changed quite a lot also, didn't he?

Akamatsu: Yes, he finally decided to choose Saell. I think he must have made a decision at that point that he wasn't going to let her go and that's why he dove into the river after the floppies [Program 48]. The floppies were never really the thing he was after. His reasoning behind trying to retrieve the diskettes was to say to Saell that he wasn't going to let her be thrown away. It was a conceptual problem for Hiroshi. Besides, those diskettes were already ruined [laughs].

So even though it was a pointless endeavor, his actions still had meaning, right?
They were five inches. That's huge, isn't it? [laughs]

Akamatsu: Yes, basically that he would never let Saell go. Like, if he got hold of her, he would put her in his pocket right away [laughs]. In other words, it's an indication of his will. And in the end, because of Hiroshi's rash behavior, Saell has to use something she had thrown away just to save his life.

It was to say to Saell that...

...he wasn't going to let her be thrown away.



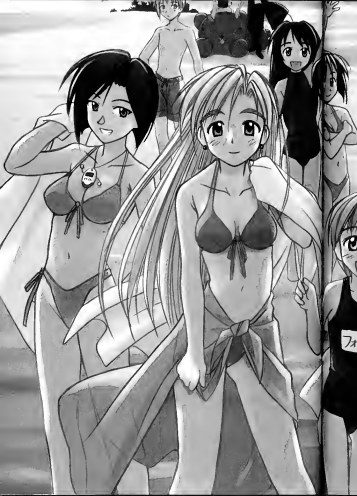
THE WORLD OF
A.I. LOVE YOU

KEN AKAMATSU Special talk

LOVE
TALK!

KEN
AKAMATSU
TELLS ALL

Musings from
Ken Akamatsu
about his total
absorption
in the "Little
Mermaid"
story arc.



In the next volume of

A.I.

LOVE YOU

World Wide Woe!

In this, the series conclusion, Toni's early years are revealed. Sure, you've seen her current incarnation push Hitoshi and the others around, but her former self wanted to dominate the entire world!

Speaking of the world, Hitoshi's little sister Kikuko crosses the planet to come home to her brother...and she's bringing an A.I.--and a whole new set of hang-ups--of her own!

Unfortunately, the addition of more estrogen and electrons to the Kobe household unleashes a threat of truly global proportions and Saati and her sisters must face off against it in a fight to the death! Could it all really end this way?!

Saras

&

*Kick
The
Kitty*

